

Backyard Invasive Plants



Developed in partnership with
City of Rockville: Croydon Creek Nature Center

In this book, you will learn...

- Three invasive plants in our area
- How to identify these plants
- Ways to prevent and reduce their spread

Japanese Stiltgrass



Microstegium viminum
specimen 2004 From [Wikimedia Commons](#)

Wineberry



"Rubus phoenicolasius - Wineberry"
2009 From From [Wikimedia Commons](#)

Amur Honeysuckle



Photo by henry perks on Unsplash

Become a Botanist

A person who studies plants is a botanist.

The Bureau of Land Management needs your help! Invasive plants were spotted in the area. We need to stop the spread before they harm our ecosystem.

Come with me to Avery Trail. How many invasive plants are there?

Avery Trail (Blue Blaze)
Trail Map



What are Invasive Plants?

Native

Plants that originated in an area and occur without human intervention.

Non-Native

Plants that do not occur naturally in a particular area.

Not all non-natives are invasives!

Invasive

- Grow quickly
- Take up space
- Overpower and kill off native plants
- Disrupt the plant community and the balance of ecosystems.



Some invasive plants wrap around trees, strip their bark and make the plant more susceptible to bugs.

Others might smother the native plant, blocking out their sunlight.



Vocabulary

Word Search

Find the vocabulary in the word search below.

V	P	W	F	I	Z	P	I	D	B	W	J	H	W	R
Z	R	M	E	T	S	Y	S	O	C	E	U	M	E	C
A	C	C	I	D	E	N	T	A	L	L	Y	V	E	J
D	W	H	S	K	Y	I	O	Y	G	V	O	D	G	S
K	E	A	E	D	L	X	N	E	C	C	U	W	Z	E
A	P	L	J	W	N	S	A	O	W	L	L	N	J	G
D	O	D	I	B	T	K	T	W	F	I	G	B	K	V
W	K	V	T	B	D	Z	I	W	T	B	O	B	T	W
I	B	D	E	N	E	S	V	G	T	T	U	U	S	C
H	E	L	P	R	T	R	E	N	A	K	W	E	B	J
M	X	X	A	W	T	S	A	N	O	R	A	V	R	S
I	K	A	H	T	E	A	I	T	J	N	G	I	P	M
U	W	X	Y	U	V	S	K	B	E	T	Y	T	D	K
G	O	N	J	R	T	B	X	E	Q	L	W	A	D	T
I	N	V	A	S	I	V	E	Y	P	X	Y	N	F	H

Accidentally

Botanist

Cover

Deliberately

Ecosystem

Invasive

Native

Non-native

Take over

Vocabulary

Fill in the blank

Fill in the blank(s) with the vocabulary words from page 4. Words are only used once.

Angela _____ planted vinca in her yard, not knowing it was an _____ species.

Joey _____ plants Amur Honeysuckle on his hill to stop soil from eroding.

Mathew goes on hike in Maryland, afterwards he gets on a flight to Colorado, carrying a _____ plant hitchhiker on his boots.

Isabelle is a _____ , she studies plants for a living.

The forest is an _____ , all animals work together to keep it healthy and balanced.

Japanese Stiltgrass

Microstegium vimineum

Facts:

- **Grows in large patches covering the forest floor**
- **Bright green grass**
- **Some roots grow above ground, like it's on stilts**



Record your observations and color in the picture above, according to what you observe.

Observations:

What does it look like? Is it a bush, grass, vine, or tree?

What does the plant smell like?

Are the leaves and stems smooth or prickly?

Does it have flowers and/or berries?

Wineberry

Rubus phoenicolasius

Facts:

- **Can grow to 9 feet tall**
- **Reddish stem with small thorns**
- **Has bright red berries in mid summer**



Video: tinyurl.com/37c939pn

Record your observations and color in the picture above, according to what you observe.

Observations:

What does it look like? Is it a bush, grass, vine, or tree?

What does the plant smell like?

Are the leaves and stems smooth or prickly?

Do you see any flowers and/or berries?

Amur Honeysuckle

Lonicera maackii

Facts:

- **Shrub grows 15 - 20 feet tall**
- **White to yellow tubular flowers**
- **Stems grow opposite from each other**



Video: tinyurl.com/czjmjuf6

Record your observations and color in the picture above, according to what you observe.

Observations:

What does it look like? Is it a bush, grass, vine, or a tree?

What does the plant smell like?

Are the leaves and stems smooth or prickly?

Do you see any flowers and/or berries?

Prevent Invasive Plants

Prevention: Stop something from starting

Ways we can prevent invasive plants:

- We don't want to accidentally plant or pay people to plant invasives in our yards.
 - Make sure to specify that you want native plants only!
 - Planting natives is a way to prevent the growth of invasive plants.



Talk to our local nurseries or nature centers to buy native plants for our gardens!

Prevent Invasive Plants

Spotting Activity

Spot and cross out the invasive plants in the picture



Reduce Invasive Plants

Reduce: To make less of

Ways we can reduce invasive plants:

- Pull out the invasive plant!
 - Some invasive plants are easier to take out than others, but consistently pulling them will stop their spread.
- Remove and dispose of berries from invasive bushes and trees!
 - Animals will eat berries of invasive plants and poop the seeds out elsewhere. This will spread the invasive plant.



Educate friends and family about invasive species, and how to prevent and reduce them.

Reduce Invasive Plants

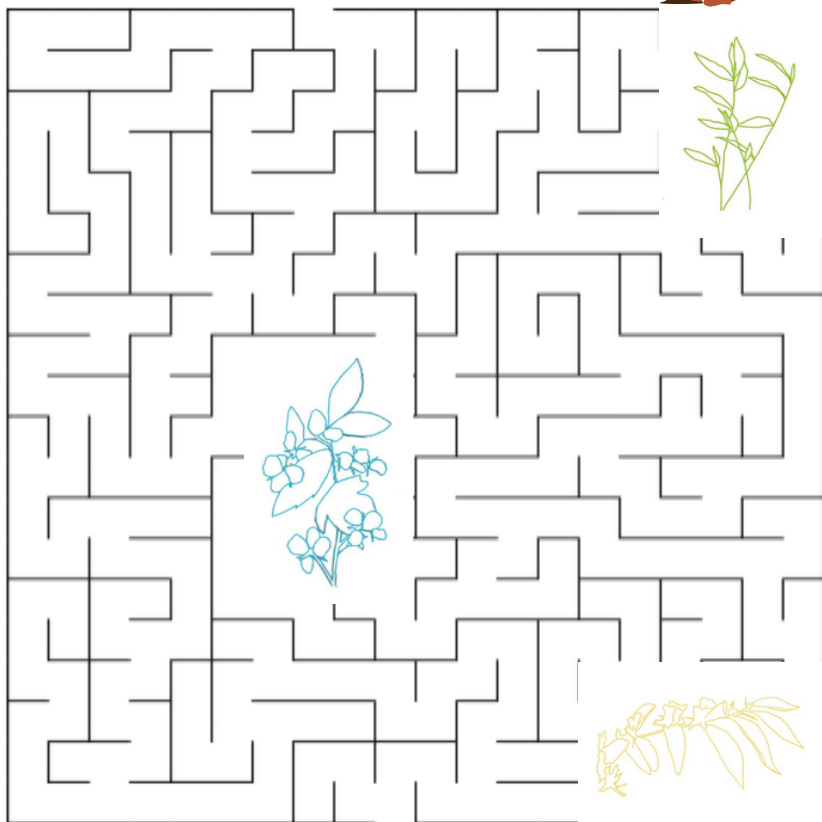
Pulling Invasives Maze

Help Benny the gardener pull out all the invasive plants!

Travel through the maze and pull out the invasives as you go.



Start

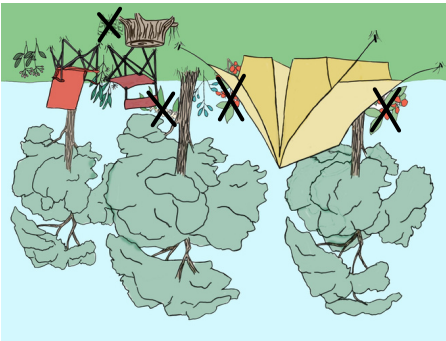


Finish

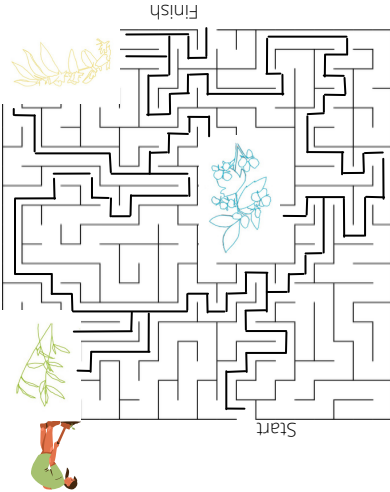
Answer Key

Don't Look until you've tried your hardest!

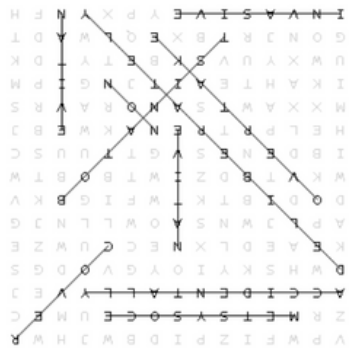
**Pg 9: Reduce Pulling
Invasives Maze**



**Pg 7: Prevent Spotting
Invasives Activity**



Pg 1: Vocab Word Find



**Pg 2: Vocab Fill in
the Blank**

Angela **accidentally** planted vinca in her yard, not knowing it was an **invasive** species.

Joey **deliberately** plants Amur Honeyuckle on his hill to stop it from eroding.

Mathew goes on hike in Maryland, afterwards he gets on a flight to Colorado, carrying a **non-native** plant hitchhiker on his boots.

Isabelle is a **botanist**, she studies plants for a living.

The forest is a **ecosystem**, all animals work together to keep it healthy and balanced.

Resources

Videos:

- The Threat of Invasive species - Jennifer Klos
- Invasive Species - National Geographic

Websites:

- Maryland Native Plant Society
- Wineberry video
- Amur Honeysuckle video

Explore these videos and websites to learn more about invasive plants in our back yards!

Don't forget to check out the

**Maryland
invasive plant list**

by the Dept. of
Agriculture



Booklet made by Anika Geibel for her Girl
Scout Gold Award project in 2022
Wine Berry drawing by Hope Heretic used
with her permission.

Thank you to the City of
Rockville: Croydon Creek
Nature Center for letting me
do this project!

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Please take this short survey to
help Croydon Creek continue to
provide educational materials and
Anika to finish her Gold Award.

Thank you!

